We claim:

1. A coated article comprising:

a. a substrate; and

b. a copper oxide and manganese oxide coating over the substrate, the coating having the molar ratio of copper to manganese in the range of about 0.8 to 1.2 and a blue color in transmission.

2. The coated article of claim 1 wherein the substrate is a glass substrate.

3. The coated article of claim 1 wherein a majority of the coating is cubic $Cu_{1.4}Mn_{1.6}O_4$ spinel type-phase.

4. A coating method comprising the steps of:

a. providing a coating composition comprising copper oxide and manganese oxide; and

b. applying the coating composition onto a surface of a substrate to form a coating having a molar ratio of copper to manganese in the range of about 0.8 to 1.2 on the surface.

5. The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the substrate is heated during the practice of the applying step to pyrolyze the coating.

6. The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein a majority of the coating is cubic $Cu_{1.4}Mn_{1.6}O_4$ having a spinel-type phase to provide a coating having a blue color in transmission.

7. The method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising the step of providing a layer comprising CuO between the coating and the substrate to prevent bleaching of the coating upon heating of the coated substrate.

8. The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein a chromium containing component is added to the coating composition.

9. The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein a cobalt containing component is added to the coating composition to improve acid resistance.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the cobalt containing component is present in the coating composition in an amount greater than 50 wt% based on the weight of the total coating composition.